

Message Text

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TAGS: US, PINT, PARM, XG

SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

INFO FOR PAOS

1. HIGHLIGHTS. PAPERS HAVE CONTINUED TO FRONTPAGE MIDEAST
WAR. TODAY'S PAPERS ALSO FRONTPAGE KISSINGER LE DUC THO
WIN NOBEL PRIZE; WASHPOST FRONTPAGES US, RUSSIA BOLSTER
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MIDEAST FLEETS, US ACTION PRECAUTIONARY; NYTIMES FRONTPAGES
GWERTZMAN, CONFLICT OVER SOVIET TIES WIDENS IN ADMINIS-
TRATION. SOME COMMENT ON DETENTE.

1A. MONDAY WASHPOST FRONTPAGE JACKSON HITS KISSINGER ON RUSSIA AND FOR WITHHOLDING ARMS FROM ISRAEL. TUESDAY PAPERS DISCLOSED US RESUPPLY OF ARMS TO ISRAEL. WASHPOST REPORTED FROM WOODSHOLE SOVIET RESEARCH SHIP HELD OPEN HOUSE FOR THOUSAND PEOPLE, HAS BEEN STUDYING FISH POPULATION AS PART OF SOVIET-AMERICAN PROJECT.

1B. SUNDAY PAPERS REPORTED AEC ANNOUNCED EIGHTH UNDERGROUND TEST THIS YEAR HELD FRIDAY. WASHPOST HAD PENSACOLA UPI REPORTING ADMIRAL MOORER SAID US HAS UNILATERALLY WITHDRAWN OVER THIRD OF ITS TROOPS FROM EUROPE OVER PAST DECADE WHILE SOVIET UNION HAS INCREASED TROOPS THERE BY 20 PERCENT IN LAST FIVE YEARS, MOORER ADDING IT'S NOT PRUDENT

TO BELIEVE US UNILATERAL ACTIONS WOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY SOVIETS. WASHPOST SIMONS NEW DELHI REPORTS INDIA'S ATOMIC PROGRAM SET BACK SEVERELY BY GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO SUBMIT TO INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS AND ALSO BY GENERAL ECONOMIC STAGNATION. WASHPOST REUTER WELLINGTON REPORTS GROWING FEAR FOR ANTARCTICA AS A NUCLEAR DUMPING GROUND, CITING SCIENTIST DARBY.

2. WASHINGTON STORIES. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN REPORTS CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND SOVIETS BECOMING ISSUE OF APPARENT CONTROVERSY WITHIN ADMINISTRATION. LAIRD HAS ACCUSED SOVIETS OF DISRUPTING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE MIDDLE EAST CEASE FIRE BUT STATE DEPT. REFUSED CRITICIZE SOVIET ACTIONS ADDING SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS WITH MOSCOW WERE CONTINUING IN EFFORT TO BRING FIGHTING TO HALT. LAIRD TOOK HARD LINE TOWARD MOSCOW ASSERTING "CONFRONTATION OF SORTS" NOW EXITST WITH RUSSIANS IN MIDDLE EAST. BUT KISSINGER, DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS, HAS ORDERED POLEMICS WITH MOSCOW BE AVOIDED AND HAS HAD HIS SPOKESMAN LEAVE IMPRESSION MIDDLE EAST DEAL WILL BE WORKED OUT SOON. LAIRD SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN SAID ADMINISTRATION WAS CONCERNED ABOUT STATEMENT ISSUED BY MOSCOW DECLARING IT WOULD ASSIST IN EVERY WAY TO BRING UNCLASSIFIED

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ABOUT ARAB EFFORT TO RECAPTURE LOST LAND. STATE OFFICIAL SAID AFTER STUDYING MOSCOW STATEMENT, THAT "IT APPEARED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS WE'VE NOTED WITHIN LAST TEN DAYS." SO FAR KISSINGER BELIEVES RUSSIAN POLEMICS FAIRLY MILD COMPARED WITH SOVIET COMMENTS MADE DURING 1976 WAR. PRIVATELY SOME STATE OFFICIALS WERE ANNOYED, SAYS GWERTZMAN, BY LAIRD'S COMMENTS SINCE HE WAS NOT INTIMATELY INVOLVED IN SENSITIVE DISCUSSION WITH ADMINISTRATION AND WITH FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AND WAS SPEAKING MORE AS POLITICIAN THAN AS STATESMAN. SOME ADMINISTRATION SPECIALISTS BELIEVE NEXT FEW DAYS WILL BE CRUCIAL BOTH TO ENDING MIDDLE EAST FIGHTING AND TO SALVAGING US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, ADDING MOSCOW HAD TO

MAKE SOME EFFORT TO SEEK CEASE FIRE AGREEMENT WITH US OR RUN RISK OF SEEING COLLAPSE OF EFFORTS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS.

2A. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN KEAT ADDS LAIRD AT BREAKFAST PRESS MEETING SAID "SOVIET UNION AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED HAS NOT BEEN PERFORMING AS IF DETENTE IS HERE," REFLECTING INCREASINGLY BLUNT WARNINGS EMANATING FROM WHITE HOUSE SUPPORTED BY REPORTS OF US NAVAL MOVEMENTS FROM PENTAGON. KEAT SAYS DIFFERING EMPHASES PLACED IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STATEMENTS AT WHITE HOUSE AND STATE COULD INDICATE ADMINISTRATION DESIRE TO REINFORCE CONFIDENTIAL WARNINGS

TO MOSCOW WITHOUT AROUSING GENERAL CONCERN THAT DETENTE BETWEEN SUPER-POWERS WAS THREATENED.

2B. MONDAY BALTSUN HEADED LOS ANGELES AP, JACKSON OPPOSES CLEARING SUEZ CANAL, SAYING CANAL WOULD BE HIGHWAY FOR RUSSIAN NAVY AND MERCHANT FLEET. AP ADDED SENATOR DISAGREED WITH KISSINGER WHO SAID RUSSIAN ACTIONS SO FAR DID NOT CONSTITUTE IRRESPONSIBILITY, JACKSON SAYING SOVIET BEHAVIOR IN MIDEAST HAS BEEN RECKLESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE, CITING SIX-YEAR PROGRAM OF TRAINING AND ARMING EGYPT IRAQ SYRIA.

2C. WASHPOST O'BRIEN STRESSED JACKSON ASSAILED KISSINGER FOR WITHHOLDING FROM ISRAEL THE ARMS SHE NEEDS TO DEFEND HERSELF AND CALLED UPON ADMINISTRATION TO SEND UNCLASSIFIED

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IMMEDIATELY PHANTOM JETS AND OTHER WEAPONS. O'BRIEN REPORTED JACKSON CALLED ON KISSINGER TO ADMIT THAT HUNDREDS OF LIVES WILL BE LOST BECAUSE SOVIETS ARE ENGAGED IN WHAT HE CALLS A MODERATE AIRLIFT. O'BRIEN ADDED JACKSON CHARGED THAT BREZHNEV URGED OTHER ARAB STATES TO JOIN IN THE ATTACK AGAINST ISRAEL AND SOVIETS SET UP MASSIVE AIRLIFT FOR RESUPPLY, AND THAT SOVIETS FROM VERY BEGINNING OF 1970 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATED IT BY INSTALLING MISSILES WITHIN 30 MILES OF CANAL, ADDING THAT ISRAELI PILOTS ARE NOW PAYING WITH THEIR LIVES FOR THE FAILURE TO INSIST THAT EGYPT AND SOVIET UNION ADHERE TO THE AGREEMENT.

3. MOSCOW STORIES. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES HRI(K SMITH REPORTS DESPITE OUTCRY IN US INFLUENTIAL CIRCLES THAT NEW US-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP IS RAPIDLY BECOMING MAJOR CASUALTY OF MIDDLE EAST WAR, MOSCOW IS TAKING CALM STOICAL VIEW. ALMOST DAILY, IN WAY ILLUSTRATING GULF BETWEEN RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES, MOSCOW AFFIRMS DESIRE TO CONTINUE ON COURSE OF EAST-WEST ACCOMMODATION. SMITH SAYS HOWEVER INDUCEMENTS TO BETTER RELATIONS ARE SOMEWHAT DIMINISHED AT MOMENT CONSIDERING PROBLEMS WITH

US CONGRESS OVER MFN TREATMENT, CSCE FACING LONG DELAY, SALT HAVING MONTHS TO GO BEFORE REACHING POINT OF DECISION, AND WESTERN COURTING OF PEKING. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR, SAYS SMITH, WHETHER MOSCOW ENCOURAGED ARABS TO LAUNCH OFFENSIVES OR WHETHER IT MERELY ACQUIESCED AND HAS GRADUALLY FELT DRAWN INTO BACKING ARABS MORE OPENLY AS IT SAW EGYPTIANS SCORE SUCCESS ON SINAI PENINSULA.

3A. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST BRIEF ADDS SOVIET PRESS REPORTED WASHINGTON ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US IS RESUPPLYING ISRAELI WAR EFFORT WITHOUT COMMENT AND FAILED TO NOTE US

ASSERTION THAT THE AMERICAN EFFORT IS BEING MADE IN REPLY TO THE SOVIET AIRLIFT.

4. COMMENT. JOSEPH KRAFT'S TUESDAY COLUMN, COMMENTING ON JACKSON'S PUSH FOR THE PRESIDENCY, SAID SENATOR'S SPEECH REPRESENTS THE OPENING OF WHAT IS ALMOST SURELY A LONG-TERM ISSUE, ADDING IT IS CLEAR THE ADMINISTRATION UNCLASSIFIED

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KIDDED ITSELF, AND THE REST OF THE WORLD, ABOUT THE DEGREE AND TERMS OF HARMONY ACHIEVED WITH SOVIET UNION. IN HIS SUNDAY COLUMN KRAFT SAID: AS TO DETENTE, BIG SHOWY SUMMIT MEETINGS ARE NOT ON FOR A WHILE AND ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO COMPROMISE ON TRADE ACT BUT THE ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE CAN GO FORWARD QUIETLY AND, IF PRESIDENT CAN BRING HIMSELF TO SLOW DOWN DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS, IT MIGHT EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO CONTINUE A CERTAIN PROGRESS IN ARMS CONTROL.

4A. TUESDAY CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID DANGER IS VERY REAL THAT RESUPPLY OPERATIONS COULD ESCALATE INTO AN ARMS RACE WHICH COULD RUIN THE NIXON-BREZHNEV DETENTE. MONITOR FEELS IT IS NOT AGGRESSIVE FOR EGYPT SYRIA TO TRY TO RECAPTURE THEIR OWN LOST LANDS, AND NOT IRRESPONSIBLE FOR SOVIETS TO GIVE SYRIA THE MEANS TO DEFEND ITS CAPITAL CITY. MONITOR URGES ALL AMERICANS TO KEEP IN MIND ISSUE IS NOT SURVIVAL OF ISRAEL BUT ONLY THE SPOILS OF THE 1967 WAR.

4B. TUESDAY WASHPOST SAID THAT DETENTE, IF IT LIMPS THROUGH THIS WAR, COULD HARDLY STAND UP UNDER ANOTHER; INDEED, THE INJURY DONE TO DETENTE IN THIS CONFLICT IS A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TO PREVENT THE MIDEAST FROM AGAIN BECOMING A THREAT TO GREAT-POWER RELATIONS.

4C. TUESDAY NYTIMES SAID US IS CLEARLY EAGER TO COOPERATE IN CONTAINING AND ENDING MIDEAST CONFLICT BUT NO SIMILAR WILL IS EVIDENT IN SOVIET UNION. SOVIET CYNICISM IN OPTING FOR THE ARABS IS LIKE A BLAST OF HARSH POLAR

AIR FREEZING THE THERMOMETER OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, ALSO IT IS HARDLY QUESTIONABLE THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN SORELY DISAPPOINTED BY THE FRUITS OF DETENTE TO DATE. TIMES SAYS SHATTERING IMPACT OF THIS LATEST BLOW TO DETENTE WILL BE FELT IN EVERY AREA OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS UNLESS MOSCOW RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR A SWIFT TURN BACK TOWARD RESPONSIBILITY.

4D. TUESDAY BALTSUN ALSO SAW PROSPECT OF SOVIET-AMERI-
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CAN ARMS LIFT RACE, WITH TREACHEROUS RISKS. SUN DECLARED THAT SO FAR KREMLIN HAS SPURNED THE OPPORTUNITY CREATED BY DETENTE TO HOLD THE FIGHTING WITHIN BOUNDS.

4E. EDITORIALIZING ON ENDANGERED DETENTE, WASHSTAR SAID FOR KISSINGER TO SAY RUSSIANS HAVEN'T BEEN HELPFUL WAS A MAJOR UNDERSTATEMENT, AND RUSSIANS HAVE SHOWN NO SIGN OF HEEDING KISSINGER'S WARNING ON IRRESPONSIBILITY. STAR CONCLUDED US WILL HAVE TO ASSIST ISRAEL WITH WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, REGARDLESS OF THE STRAIN ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GREAT POWERS. KISSINGER

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